

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



PCT



(43) International Publication Date
6 January 2005 (06.01.2005)

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/001487 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: G01N 35/10, 1/12, 1/14, 1/18, A61J 1/20, A61M 5/32, 5/178, 5/24, B01L 3/02

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(21) International Application Number:
PCT/AU2004/000838

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(22) International Filing Date: 25 June 2004 (25.06.2004)

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AB, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(25) Filing Language: English

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW).

(26) Publication Language: English

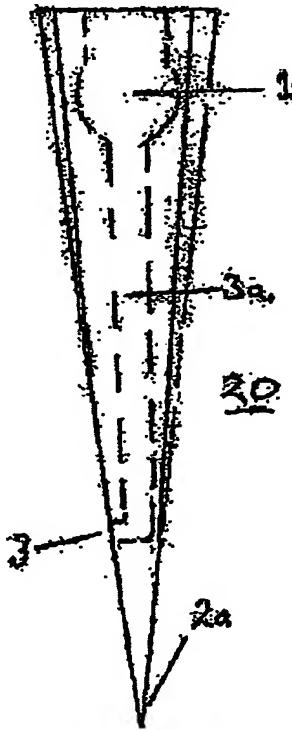
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SAMPLING A FLUID



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to the field of fluid sampling, in particular, the invention relates to aspirating fluid samples from a plurality of closed containers such as VacutainersTM or vials containing biological fluid. In one embodiment the present invention provides a fluid sampling probe (20) in a unitary assembly for aspirating fluid samples by way of a reduced diameter piercing portion (2a) in direct fluid communication with a reservoir (1) for (temporarily) storing and/or transporting a sample, comprising: a first portion (2a) for piercing a closed fluid carrier, a second portion (1) serving as a reservoir for receiving a fluid, the second portion (1) being formed integrally operative with the first portion (2a) and a third portion (3) providing fluid communication between the first and second portion. The fluid sampling probe (20) of the present invention, without being a limiting example, may be used to provide a high throughput aliquotting system for handling precise quantities of material. Accordingly, the division of a sample of a substance into equal parts, each of which representing a known quantitative relationship to each other and to the sample as a whole is enabled on a large scale.